

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A water-soluble composition for removing petroleum residue from a substrate, said composition comprising:
 - (a) from about 10% to about 60% by weight of an aromatic ester;
 - (b) from about 30% to about 60% by weight of an aliphatic ester;
 - (c) from 0% to about 15% by weight of a co-solvent;
 - (d) from 0% to about 10% by weight of one of a cyclic terpene and a terpenoid;
 - (e) from 0% to about 1% by weight of an odor-masking agent;
 - (f) from 0% to about 20% by weight of a nonionic surfactant; and
 - (g) wherein the petroleum residue consists essentially of asphalt, bitumen, or a combination thereof and the composition is as least as efficient as diesel fuel for removing the petroleum residue from the substrate.
2. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the aromatic ester comprises a benzoic acid ester.
3. (Original) The composition according to Claim 2, wherein the benzoic acid ester comprises an alkylated benzoic acid ester.
4. (Original) The composition according to Claim 3, wherein the alkylated benzoic acid ester is selected from the group consisting of methyl benzoic acid ester, ethyl benzoic acid ester, n-propyl benzoic acid ester, isobutyl benzoic acid ester, n-butyl benzoic acid ester, tert-butyl benzoic acid ester, isomers of pentyl benzoic acid ester, isopropyl benzoic acid ester, and combinations thereof.
5. (Original) The composition according to Claim 4, wherein the alkylated benzoic acid ester comprises isopropyl benzoic acid ester.
6. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at least about 50% by weight of an aromatic ester.

7. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at least about 40% by weight of an aromatic ester.
8. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the aliphatic ester comprises a fatty acid alkyl ester.
9. (Original) The composition according to Claim 8, wherein the fatty acid alkyl ester comprises a fatty acid methyl ester.
10. (Original) The composition according to Claim 9, wherein the fatty acid methyl ester comprises biodiesel.
11. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the cyclic terpene comprises d-limonene.
12. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at least about 50% by weight of an aliphatic ester.
13. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at least about 40% by weight of an aliphatic ester.
14. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the co-solvent comprises a hydrotrope.
15. (Original) The composition according to Claim 14, wherein the hydrotrope comprises a diethylene glycol ether.
16. (Currently amended) The composition according to Claim 15, wherein the diethylene glycol ether comprises ~~butyl-carbitol~~ diethylene glycol monobutyl ether.
17. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at least about 10% by weight of a co-solvent.

18. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the odor-masking agent comprises a fragrance.
19. (Original) The composition according to Claim 18, wherein the fragrance comprises a lemon tart fragrance.
20. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at least about 0.1% by weight of an odor-masking agent.
21. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the nonionic surfactant comprises an alkoxyated triglyceride.
22. (Original) The composition according to Claim 21, wherein the alkoxyated triglyceride comprises an ethoxyated Castor oil.
23. (Original) The composition according to Claim 22, wherein the ethoxyated Castor oil comprises polyoxyethylene (20) castor oil (ether, ester).
24. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the nonionic surfactant comprises an alkoxyated amide.
25. (Original) The composition according to Claim 24, wherein the alkoxyated amide comprises an alkoxyated hydrogenated tallow amide.
26. (Original) The composition according to Claim 25, wherein the alkoxyated hydrogenated tallow amide comprises a polyoxyethylene (13) hydrogenated tallowalkylamide.
27. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at least about 0.4% of a nonionic surfactant.
28. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at least about 0.8% of a nonionic surfactant.

29. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises about 50% by weight of an aromatic ester; about 40% by weight of an aliphatic ester; about 10% by weight of a co-solvent; and about 0.1% by weight of an odor-masking agent.
30. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises about 40% by weight of an aromatic ester; about 50% by weight of an aliphatic ester; about 10% by weight of a co-solvent; and about 0.1% by weight of an odor-masking agent.
31. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises about 40% by weight of an aromatic ester; about 50% by weight of an aliphatic ester; about 10% by weight of a co-solvent; about 0.1% by weight of an odor-masking agent; and about 0.4% by weight of a nonionic surfactant.
32. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises about 40% by weight of an aromatic ester; about 50% by weight of an aliphatic ester; about 10% by weight of a co-solvent; about 0.1% by weight of an odor-masking agent; and about 0.8% by weight of a nonionic surfactant.
33. (Original) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises water.
34. (Original) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises an aqueous solution.
35. (Original) The composition according to Claim 34, wherein said composition comprises at least about a 10% aqueous solution.
36. (Original) The composition according to Claim 34, wherein said composition comprises at least about a 20% aqueous solution.
37. (Original) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises a non-toxic substance.

38. (Original) A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises a biodegradable substance.
39. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition contains no detectable volatile organic compounds (VOC's) according to EPA Method 8260B Volatile Organic Compounds by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS).
40. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition has a flash point (closed cup) greater than about 60°C.
41. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is essentially free of chlorinated solvents, caustics, or acids.
42. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition has a pH of about 7.
- 43-104. (Canceled)
105. (Previously presented) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises:
- (a) from about 30% to about 50% by weight of an aromatic ester;
 - (b) from about 40% to about 50% by weight of an aliphatic ester;
 - (c) about 10% by weight of a co-solvent;
 - (d) from 0% to about 10% by weight of a cyclic terpene;
 - (e) from 0% to about 1% by weight of an odor-masking agent; and
 - (f) from 0% to about 20% by weight of a nonionic surfactant.
106. (Currently amended) The composition according to Claim 105, wherein the composition comprises about 40% isopropyl benzoic acid ester, about 50% biodiesel; and about 10% ~~butyl-carbitol~~ diethylene glycol monobutyl ether.

107. (Currently amended) The composition according to Claim 105, wherein the composition comprises about 50% isopropyl benzoic acid ester, about 40% biodiesel; and about 10% ~~butyl-carbitol~~ diethylene glycol monobutyl ether.
108. (Currently amended) ~~The composition according to Claim 105~~ A water-soluble composition for removing petroleum residue from a substrate, said composition comprising:
- (a) from about 30% to about 50% by weight of an aromatic ester;
 - (b) from about 40% to about 50% by weight of an aliphatic ester;
 - (c) about 10% by weight of a co-solvent;
 - (d) from 0% to about 10% by weight of a cyclic terpene;
 - (e) from 0% to about 1% by weight of an odor-masking agent; and
 - (f) from 0% to about 20% by weight of a nonionic surfactant,
- wherein the aliphatic ester is a 2-ethylhexyl ester.
109. (Previously presented) The composition according to Claim 108, wherein the aliphatic ester is selected from the group consisting of 2-ethylhexyloleate, 2-ethylhexylpalmitate, 2-ethylhexyladipate, 2-ethylhexylsterate, and 2-ethylhexylsuccinate.
110. (Previously presented) A water-soluble composition for removing petroleum residue from a substrate, said composition comprising:
- (a) from about 10% to about 60% by weight of an aromatic ester;
 - (b) from about 30% to about 60% by weight of an aliphatic ester;
 - (c) from 0% to about 15% by weight of a co-solvent;
 - (d) from 0% to about 10% by weight of one of a cyclic terpene and a terpenoid;
 - (e) from 0% to about 1% by weight of an odor-masking agent; and
 - (f) from 0% to about 20% by weight of a nonionic surfactant,
- wherein the composition is readily biodegradable, is at least as efficient as diesel fuel for removing the petroleum residue from the substrate, has a flash point of at

least 60°C, comprises no trace amounts of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) above the limits disclosed in Method 8260B of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and is non-corrosive with respect to the substrate.